

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FISH POND MANAGEMENT

(Ac.)

CODE 399

DEFINITION

Managing impounded water for the production of fish or other aquatic organisms (non-commercial use).

PURPOSE

1. To provide favorable habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.
2. To develop and maintain a desired species composition and ratio.
3. To develop and maintain a desired level of production.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable To All Purposes.

Structures will meet or exceed the requirements of the appropriate National Standard; i.e. a constructed pond will meet or exceed the requirement in Pond (378).

All Federal, State and local regulations will be followed and necessary permits obtained prior to stocking, etc.

Do not recommend species that are considered invasive or may become invasive in surrounding waters.

Additional Criteria To Provide Favorable Habitat For Fish And Other Aquatic Organisms.

The site will be protected from flooding, sedimentation, and contamination.

Aquatic vegetation shall be managed.

Additional Criteria To Develop And Maintain A Desired Species Composition And Ratio.

Species for stocking will be limited to those that are adapted for use in ponds, lakes or reservoirs.

Species selection(s) and stocking rates shall follow the appropriate State agency policy and guidelines.

Stocking rates and species selection and combinations shall depend upon the size, depth, water temperature, and water quality of the area to be stocked.

To maintain the desired species composition and species ratios a plan will be developed with the client to evaluate future species composition and species ratios through observations, seining and catch records.

Additional Criteria To Develop And Maintain A Desired Level Of Production.

The desired level of production shall be maintained through liming, fertilization or supplemental feeding.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the use of native species.

Consider liming acidic soils in the watershed to

achieve a neutral pH for best production.

Consider alternatives to the use of pesticides in the drainage area above the site, which may have negative impacts to water quality.

Consider the use of filter strips or other practices to ensure that discharges from ponds, lakes, and reservoirs will meet state water quality standards.

Consider methods to prevent the fish in the pond, lake, and reservoir from escaping into adjoining waters.

Consider methods to prevent introduction of non-native species into adjoining waters where native species might be adversely affected or non-compatible species from entering the pond, lake or reservoir.

Consider using only species of fish or aquatic organisms that are specifically adapted to impounded waters.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for fish and other aquatic organism management will be in keeping with this standard and will describe the requirements for applying this practice to achieve its intended purpose. Specifications for this practice will be prepared for each site. Specifications will be recorded using approved specifications sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other documentation.

Requirements for the operation and maintenance of this practice shall be incorporated into site specifications.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The client will receive a plan or specifications describing the following management and corrective actions that are required for the successful management of the pond, lake or reservoir.

1. Managing fish or other aquatic organism populations.
2. Supplemental feeding.
3. Removing undesirable and overpopulated organisms.
4. Aquatic plant control.
5. Fertilizing.

APPROVAL:

/s Gary Valentine

State Wildlife Biologist

June 18, 2001

Date

Zone Wildlife Biologist

Date

STATEMENT OF NEED:

This practice is needed in the

FOTG.

Resource Team Leader (D.C.)

Date

Zone Wildlife Biologist

Date

Zone Wildlife Biologist

Date

CERTIFICATION:

Reviewed and determined adequate without need
of revision:

Zone Wildlife Biologist

Date

Zone Wildlife Biologist

Date
